

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of searching a universe of financial instruments by performing a plurality of n filter passes of said universe with a computer having a processor, a memory, a viewing screen and a computer input device, each said filter pass having a filter condition, said method comprising:

(a) presenting on said viewing screen a plurality of investment parameters, at least one of said investment parameters being selectable by user operation of said computer input device as a proposed filter condition;

(b) presenting on said viewing screen a population chart showing the population of said financial instruments ~~in different categories for~~ based upon said proposed filter condition of an i^{th} ~~one of said filter passes~~, where i is any integer from 1 to n , said proposed filter condition including (a) at least one investment parameter selected by user operation of said computer input device and (b) all filter conditions for previously performed ones of said filter passes, wherein the population chart for the i^{th} filter pass differs from the population chart for the $i^{\text{th}} - 1$ filter pass;

(c) executing said proposed filter pass in response to a run command generated by user operation of said computer input device; and

(d) repeating steps (a), (b) and (c) until the n^{th} filter pass has been performed.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18, wherein said population chart is a histogram and said categories are frequency of occurrence categories, and wherein steps (a) and (b) concurrently present said plurality of investment parameters and said histogram on said viewing screen.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising:

(e) presenting on said viewing screen a parameter limiter, said parameter limiter being user selectable to limit a selected investment parameter in forming said proposed filter condition.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, wherein said parameter limiter is one of a plurality of parameter limiters, said plurality of parameter limiters being presented on said viewing screen.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said plurality of investment parameters and said plurality of parameter limiters are presented in a first area of said screen and said histogram is presented in a second area of said screen.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said n filter passes are combined with an additional filter pass that has filter conditions selected from a plurality of investment categories for said financial instruments.

24. (Currently amended) A memory media for controlling a computer to search a universe of financial instruments by performing n filter passes of said universe, said computer having a viewing screen and a computer input device, each said filter pass employing a filter condition, said memory media comprising:

means for controlling said computer to perform the following steps:

(a) presenting on said viewing screen a plurality of investment parameters, said investment parameters being selectable by user operation of said computer input device;

(b) presenting on said viewing screen a population chart showing the population of said financial instruments ~~in different categories for~~ based upon a proposed filter condition of an ith one of said filter passes, where i is an integer from 1 to n, said proposed filter condition including (i) at least one investment parameter selected by user operation of said

computer input device and (ii) all filter conditions for previously performed ones of said filter passes, wherein the population chart for the i^{th} filter pass differs from the population chart for the $i^{\text{th}} - 1$ filter pass;

(c) executing said proposed filter pass in response to a run command generated by user operation of said computer input device; and

(d) repeating steps (a), (b) and (c) to repeat until the n^{th} filter pass has been performed.

25. (Original) A memory media according to claim 24, wherein said population chart is a histogram and said categories are frequency of occurrence categories.

26. (Original) A memory media according to claim 25, wherein said means for controlling causes said computer to perform the following further step:

(e) presenting on said viewing screen a parameter limiter, said parameter limiter being user selectable to limit a selected investment parameter in forming said proposed filter condition.

27. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~memory media according to claim 26, wherein said parameter limiter is one of a plurality of parameter limiters, said plurality of parameter limiters being presented on said viewing screen.

28. (Original) The computer media according to claim 27, wherein steps (a) and (e) present said plurality of investment parameters and said plurality of parameter limiters in a first area of said viewing screen and said histogram in a second area of said viewing screen.

29. (Original) The computer media according to claim 28, wherein said n filter passes are combined with an additional filter pass that has a filter condition selected from a plurality of investment categories for said financial instruments.

30- 41. (Canceled).

42. (Previously amended) A method of searching a universe of financial instruments comprising:

(a) presenting a histogram including a plurality of display elements that represent different groupings of an investment parameter, wherein said groupings are frequency of occurrence groupings;

(b) identifying for each of said display elements a filter condition for said investment parameter; and

(c) presenting an associated actuator for each of said filter conditions for selective actuation by a user.

43. (Previously added) The method of claim 42, wherein the filter condition and associated actuator of each display element is presented in close proximity thereto.

44. (Previously added) The method of claim 42, wherein said filter condition is a parameter limiter.

45. (Previously added) The method of claim 42, wherein said display elements are bars.

46. (Previously added) The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of (d) presenting another histogram that includes another plurality of display elements that represent said investment parameter filtered by a selected one of said filter conditions.

47. (Previously added) A method of searching a plurality of financial instruments, said method comprising:

- (a) presenting a plurality of filter parameters for selection by a user;
- (b) based on a selection of one or more of said filter parameters defining a first filter pass, presenting concurrently with said filter parameters a preview of a result of said first filter pass;
- (c) performing said filter pass in response to a user command given after said preview is presented to said user; and
- (d) repeating steps (b) and (c) for at least a second filter pass.